NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

WEEKLY STAFF NEWSLETTER
January 9, 1998

MUSEUM CAMPUS UPDATE

Trolley Service

The Museum Campus Christmas Break trolley service through the Chicago Trolley Company ended Sunday, January 4. Four trolleys transported visitors to and from the Adler, Field, Shedd and the parking lots; 52,220 visitors rode the trolley over fourteen days. On a few days, ridership was over 6,000 and a fifth trolley was added during peak hours.

Special thanks to **Ray Van Hook**, **Diane White, Monique Tarleton** and **Ron Cundiff** of Field Museum Security / Public Services who ensured that the road used by the trolleys (just east of the Soldier Field parking lot) was secured during trolley service.

Thanks also go to the Visitor Services Departments of the Adler, Field and Shedd who informed visitors of the trolley service when welcoming them and through signs on stands and trolley flyers at the information desks.

SPRING BREAK TROLLEY SERVICE DATES: March 21 – April 5, 1998

Construction Update

According to the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT), the final touches to the Museum Campus are in the works, including:

- the addition of pre-cast panels to the concrete walls on the north side of the Field Museum; and
- the addition of temporary lighting along the pathways through the month of January.

The placement of concrete work between the Field and the Shedd for the sidewalk and retaining walls has been completed.

In March and April, CDOT will be sodding and grading the proposed landscaping area. CDOT and the Chicago Park District will also be planting trees.

Questions? Please contact **Christina Breslow** at the Museum Campus office (x323).

Congratulations!

The Exhibits Department is pleased to announce that **Sophia Shaw** has joined us as Manager of Special Projects. This move will allow Sophia to concentrate on the special exhibits work she began while in Museum Affairs. Her phone extension will remain 732. Please join us in congratulating Sophia.

Carrie Hageman

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Alan Resetar of the Division of Amphibians and Reptiles was a guest speaker at a meeting of the Indiana Hub of the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network on Saturday, December 13 in Michigan City, Indiana. He gave a short talk on the amphibians and reptiles of aquatic habitats in the Chicago area.

NOON BALLOON

The first Noon Balloon presentation for 1998 was delivered Tuesday, January 6 by **Jeremy Kirchman,** Research Assistant, Biochemistry Laboratories, Field Museum. Jeremy Discussed his research on the population genetics of Cave Swallows, a group of birds long considered to be a single species but represented by numerous subspecies, each having a discrete distribution. Cave Swallows typically nest only in limestone caves in Texas, the Yucatan of Mexico, the West Indies, and Ecuador and Peru. A fifth breeding population has been found nesting under concrete bridges in southern Florida. Jeremy sampled each of these five populations to compare microsatellite DNA for patterns both within and among populations. He found the Ecuadoran group least variable and distinct from all other populations. He found the Texas and Florida populations to be most similar but was unable to resolve relations among populations from the Yucatan or Jamaica with other populations. Although his sample sizes were relatively small, his results support other workers proposals to elevate the Ecuadoran subspecies to full species status. However Jeremy's results do not support elevation of the Texas populations to full species status. Jeremy intends to extend these studies by obtaining data from Cytochrome B.

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to cklyce@fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.

WELCOME! *Staff who started employment in November and December*

Dana Brink	Budget Dept.	Director of Financial Operations
Damaris Cruz	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep
Elizabeth Garibay	Exhibits	Intern
Melvin Ghoston	Mail Room	Mail Room Assistant
Patrick Heneghan	FP&O	Stationary Engineer
Sandra Hernandez	Stores	Stock Assistant
James Holstein	Geology	MSS III - Fossil Preparator
Mary Johnson	Stores	Merchandising Assistant
Ethel Kaplan	Institutional Adv	Director of Planned Giving
Kimberly King	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep
Jeremy Kirchman	Sci. Tech Services	MSS III- Research Assistant
Robert Masek	Geology	MSS III - Fossil Preparator
Tamatha Norment	Anthropology	MSS II - Project Assistant
Christopher Philipp	Anthropology	MSS II - Exhibits Proj. Asst.
Victoria Ramos	Zoology	MSS II - Project Assistant
Laura Sappelsa	Botany	MSS III - Research Assistant
Elizabeth Sneed	Public Services	Administrative Assistant
Sue Stott	Education	Coordinator, Festivals & Spec. Proj.

CONGRATULATIONS! *Staff who were promoted or changed positions*

Barbara Ceiga	from Exhibit Developer	to Senior Exhibit Developer/Exhibits
Rebecca Conant	from Research Assistant	to Collections Mgmt. Assist/Geology
Susan Lerner	from Exhibit Preparator	to Exhibit Proj. Assist/Anthropology
Eric Manabat	from Exhibit Preparator	to Draftsperson/Exhibits
Jon Rogers	from Security Officer	to Exhibit Projects Assist/Anthropol.

GOODBYE AND BEST WISHES! *Staff who ended employment November/December*

Mary Abbott	Stores	Selling Store Supervisor
Jose Alba	Housekeeping	Housekeeper I
Sonja Berg	ECP	Intern
Lara Furniss	Exhibits	Exhibit Designer II
Mary Futrell	Anthropology	Secretary II
Sorrel Goodwin	Anthropology	Intern
Elizabeth Grismer	Sci. Tech. Serv.	MSS III - Research Assistant
Denise Hatter Easley	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep
Kim Holmes	Stores	Store Supervisor
Kenyetta Hunter	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep
Lynda Jurica	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep
Christopher Lucas	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator
Joyce Matuszewich	Education	Division Head - Visitor Programs
Lincoln Michal	Zoology	MSS II - Research Assistant
Lee Pembleton	Anthropology	MSS II - Coll. Mngmt. Asst.
Patricia Phillips	Finance	Executive Assistant
Anthony Robinson	Housekeeping	Housekeeper I
Kathleen Tully	Education	Secretary
Dahao Wang	Computer Services	Computer Systems Specialist

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

As many of you are aware, we had an eventful New Year's Eve at The Field Museum. We are as concerned as you are about the outcome of this event. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many staff that contributed to the coordination and planning, especially those who worked so hard during and following the event.

We entered into the agreement to hold this event early last year. The event was originally planned to be a DJ-hosted dance party for approximately 2,000 guests benefitting Pediatric AIDS. As time went by, we discussed their plans and learned of the changing scope of the event. Since we had an agreement, we accommodated these changes with the goal of ensuring that the Museum was protected as well. It is now clear that this event was not compatible with our mission, goals and facility.

To avoid problems in the future, we are reviewing the existing policies and procedures and how they applied to this event specifically. To assist us, please communicate any comments or suggestions you may have. You can e-mail us at events@fmnh.org or send a note through inter-office mail.

Again, thanks!

Sincerely and gratefully,

The staff of the Special Events Department

Field Museum Cookbooks are still available!

Contact **Janice** (x442) or stop in her office (Room 3901A). All proceeds go to Chicago House and the Greater Chicago Food Depository.